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irradiating a condensed laser beam generated by a laser source to a certain point of an underwater workpiece;

c| supplying gas to the certain point from a nozzle having a gas exit, the nozzle having an area surrounding the gas exit that extends to the surface of the workpiece for keeping the supplied gas between the nozzle and the workpiece, wherein the nozzle is formed as a disk having the gas exit at the center thereof; and

supplying a welding wire from within the nozzle to the certain point.

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